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USAID/Zambia DRG YOUTH LEAD

The political system in Zambia has untapped potential to hold those in leadership accountable and promote citizen responsive governance. USAID's Youth Lead activity aims to support, network, and elevate 350 outstanding young leaders to amplify the impact of their work, inspire civic innovation, and promote a culture of sustained citizen-responsive leadership.

- **Life of Project:** September 2018 - September 2021
- **Geographic Focus:** National
- **Partner:** FHI 360 **Sub-partner:** National Youth Development Council (NYDC)
- **Chief of Party:** Alice Lungu Bwalya
- **Total USAID Funding:** \$2.8 million
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The Youth Lead activity builds youth civic engagement skills through training and internship programs which culminate in grant-funded, youth-led projects addressing women's rights, health, and good governance. Youth Lead trains youth in leadership, advocacy, and civic action skills that are most likely to lead to increased and more effective civic engagement.

With 34% of the population between ages 10 and 24, youth have a powerful role to play in shaping Zambia's democratic future, yet youth rates of civic and political participation are low when compared with other groups. This is particularly true of urban youth, who participate at much lower rates than their rural peers. Through the Youth Lead activity, young people will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to design and implement community projects within and outside their communities.

Youth Lead has developed a three-stage, integrated leadership-development program that supports youth through a series of activities that help them learn, practice, and apply leadership and civic education skills. These include:

- Learn: An experiential youth leadership training program;
- Practice: An internship program to enable youth to practice skills in a workplace setting and expand their knowledge and exposure to leadership and civic action; and
- Apply: An opportunity to apply the skills learned by designing and implementing a youth-led initiative and/or advocacy campaign.

Youth Lead establishes structures and systems for engaging youth as leaders in government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses. Additionally, the opportunity to scale up community-based, youth-led projects and advocacy campaigns that promote youth civic engagement will sustainably prepare youth to become the next generation of leaders in their communities. With this approach, Youth Lead strengthens the capacity of the local partner, the National Youth Development Council, to implement all Youth Lead activities through organizational and technical support.

Expected Results

The goal of Youth Lead is to support, network, and elevate outstanding young leaders from across Zambia to amplify the impact of their work, inspire civic innovation, and promote a culture of sustained, citizen-responsive leadership. Youth Lead will improve leadership knowledge and skills for 350 youth in Zambia by 2021. By the end of the activity, the Zambian government will be able to manage youth internship and leadership programs. As a result, the activity expects a strengthened institutional environment for youth civic engagement as a result of Youth Lead.